



USDA Foreign Agricultural Service

GAIN Report

Global Agriculture Information Network

Template Version 2.09

Voluntary Report - public distribution

Date: 3/10/2006

GAIN Report Number: SR6002

Serbia

Poultry and Products

Serbia Confirms 1st Case of Avian Influenza in Dead Swan

2006

Approved by:

Hassan F. Ahmed

U.S. Embassy

Prepared by:

Hassan F. Ahmed

Report Highlights:

On March 9, the Serbian Ministry of Agriculture confirmed that samples from a dead swan found a week earlier in the Backi Monostor, in Sombor, in Northwestern Serbia tested positive for the Avian Influenza strain H5N1. Following tests conducted in Serbian laboratories, samples were sent to the reference laboratory in Weybridge, England for further testing and confirmation. The results of the test came back positive. On March 3, Montenegro announced a ban on poultry imports from Serbia.

Includes PSD Changes: No
Includes Trade Matrix: No
Unscheduled Report
Belgrade [YU1]
[SR]

On March 2, the Serbian Ministry of Agriculture, Water Management and Forestry announced that a suspected case of Avian Influenza (H5N1) has been detected in a dead swan found in Veliki Backi canal in Backi Monostor, of the Sombor municipality in the Vojvodina region. Following lab tests conducted by the Veterinary Scientific Institute in Novi Sad and the Veterinary Institute in Kraljevo, samples were sent for further testing and confirmation by the reference lab in Weybridge, UK. On March 9, the Agricultural Ministry confirmed that samples indeed tested positive for Avian Influenza H5N1. The Serbian government has declared the area within 3 km from the location where the dead swan was found as contaminated zone and the area within 10 km as endangered area of contamination.

Several safeguard measures, similar to those in EU countries, have been implemented by the Serbian government to prevent the spread of bird flu in the country. The measures include closing and barricading access to the contaminated areas, the implementation of bio-safety and disinfection procedures, prohibiting the movement of poultry, poultry products and exotic birds and ban on hunting of birds and wild boars in these areas. There have been three suspected cases of Avian Influenza announced in Serbia all found in the Vojvodina region in wild birds and so far only one case has been confirmed to be H5N1 strain. Vojvodina is the heart of Serbia's agriculture and home to the bulk of the commercial poultry production facilities.

Following the announcement of the first Serbian AI case, Montenegro has banned the import of all poultry and processed products from Serbia. The Serbian veterinary inspection chief stated that Serbia's poultry exports are now being called into question, noting that the majority of its exports target Bosnia-Herzegovina.